

## HOUSE APPROVES MEASURE TO CREATE JOBS AND ASSIST FAMILIES LOWER ENERGY BILLS

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act, a measure to spur the installation of energy saving products in homes, such as insulation, windows, window films, doors, and heating systems. The measure approved by the House will encourage homeowners to make use of such energy saving retrofits by providing rebates for the purchase and installation of energy saving measures in their homes. The measure not only helps families reduce home energy costs but also will create jobs by restarting the assembly lines at factories that produce energy efficient technologies and putting construction workers on the job installing these improvements.

In fact, I worked, along with my colleague Congressman Tom Perriello, to ensure that the measure would create jobs in the Ninth District. A Ninth District company, Solutia, is a leading producer of energy saving window films. We secured the inclusion of window film as a qualified energy saving product under the Home Star program. Energy saving window films, like those manufactured in Henry County, can provide homeowners with substantial savings on energy costs when applied to existing windows. If the measure is signed into law and funded, Solutia will be able to add jobs in the Ninth District.

Home Star includes two tracks to provide long and short term benefits. The Silver Star program will provide up-front rebates for the installation of specific energy-saving technologies, including insulation, duct sealing, windows and doors, window films, air sealing, and water heaters. Homeowners will be able to receive up to \$3,000 in rebates under Silver Star. The Gold Star program rewards homeowners who conduct a comprehensive energy audit and implement a full complement of measures to reduce energy use throughout the home. Consumers will receive \$3,000, or half the cost, for measures that reduce energy use by 20 percent, and can receive up to \$8,000 when additional energy savings are achieved.

Home Star is expected to allow 3 million families to retrofit their homes to be more energy efficient. Consumers are predicted to save \$9.2 billion on their energy bills over the next 10 years as a result of Home Star's energy efficiency investments. And, Home Star will create

168,000 new jobs here in the United States. Construction jobs cannot be outsourced and more than 90 percent of energy efficiency technologies are manufactured here in America.

The legislation approved by the House had the support of a broad range of business, labor, environmental, and consumer groups including the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the National Association of Home Builders. I am pleased that the House approved the measure, and I will continue to work toward enactment of this legislation.

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